

March 6, 1973

(Start Belt #9)

the record will show in the study of the committee which I Chaired that in executive meetings they didn't even keep record, they didn't even keep minutes in many of them, the record would show that in some cases those who wrote the minutes were not even there, and they wrote the minutes days and weeks after it happened. Now this is the public's business, and I'm a strong advocate that what those people elected to public office do, the people ought to be interested in seeing if they want to look at it, and this bill merely simplifies it and says that every other subdivision of government will do exactly like this body has done in the policy we adopted for ourselves.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of the motion? Do you all understand the amendment? Do you want the amendment read? Alright the Clerk will read the amendment.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Amendment read.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I wish Senator Carpenter would you yield to a question?

SPEAKER: Will you yield Senator Carpenter?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Yes.

SENATOR BARNETT: I think that what you've done is what I've been afraid of is going to happen to this bill. The way I would read it now, when you say any informal action or formal action, this would mean, I take it, that if you had county commissioners in your county such as three, that two of them couldn't even get together with their county attorney for an informal discussion, that's what it would read wouldn't it?

SENATOR CARPENTER: No.

SENATOR BARNETT: Why, it goes into the same section that it says, on line 17, any of the purposes of briefing, discussion or the formation of tentative policy, or for the taking of any formal or informal action.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, it be in substance what it says, now you can always bring about unusual cases and this case which you brought is not unusual. It doesn't prevent any county commissioner from going to the county attorney or anywhere else, or two of them, in order to get whatever advice they want, but when they meet, they meet officially and not informal in order to transact the people's business. Now while I'm asking a question, will the body go to the bill, LB 219, and on page 19, now if that's the only thing bothering you Senator, I have no particular objection if you want to strike out the word or informal.

SENATOR BARNETT: No that's on page 2, on line 19, you said page 19, you mean page 2.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now if that bothers you I'm certainly willing to strike that out.

SENATOR BARNETT: I think what actually bothers me more than that is the briefing and discussion that's in line 18, and I suppose that would have to do with the bill, because I can't see, and it's possibly explainable by Senator Chambers, he knows that I oppose this thing too, but I don't see what's wrong with our open meeting law as it is and I wish somebody would explain why we have to go farther then what we have and it looks